

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05735 262317Z

17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01

AID-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 SSC-01 DHA-02 OC-05

CCO-00 SCA-01 /071 W

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O R 262255Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2429

INFO USCINCSO

DIA DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5735

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: INTERNAL MILITARY CRISIS CONTINUES

REFS: BA-5679 AND BA-5716

1. REPORTS THAT ARMY CINC LAPLANE HAD RESIGNED WERE BROADCAST OVER RADIO AT NOON, AND EMBASSY MILITARY-POLITICAL SOURCES CONFIRMED RESIGNATION HAD INDEED BEEN TENDERED. HOWEVER, AT 1:30 TODAY, LAPLANE SPOKESMAN AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS ISSUED STATEMENT THAT LAPLANE HAD NOT RESIGNED. SHORTLY AFTER STATEMENT ISSUED, RUMORS CIRCULATED THAT LAPLANE ALONG WITH DEFENSE MIN GARRIDO HAD GONE TO OLIVOS TO CONFER WITH MRS. PERON. SUBSEQUENTLY, EMBASSY PRESS CONTACT INFORMED THAT ENTIRE CABINET PLUS LAPLANE HAD GONE TO OLIVOS. MASSERA AND FAUTARIO, NAVY AND AIR FORCE CINCS RESPECTIVELY, ARE REPORTED TO BE IN THEIR HEADQUARTERS. PRESS SOURCES ADDED THAT MEETING WAS CALLED SUDDENLY. ECONOMY MIN CAFIERO, WHO HAD BEEN LUNCHING IN HIS OFFICE WITH REPORTERS, RECEIVED URGENT CALL FROM OLIVOS AND TOLD TO GO DIRECTLY TO CABINET MEETING.

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 05735 262317Z

2. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS, THE CGT AND 62 ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ISSUED STATEMENT PLACING LABOR ON "STATE OF ALERT AND MOBILIZATION" BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE THREATS TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. STATEMENT ADDS THAT LABOR DOES NOT WANT TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN INTERNAL MILITARY DISPUTE, BUT WANTS MILITARY TO KEEP HANDS OFF CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. DESPITE STATEMENT BY LABOR LEADERS, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT CGT HAS INDEED TAKEN STEPS TO ORGANIZE STREET DEMONSTRATIONS OR MASS RALLIES.

3. DURING COURSE OF AFTERNOON, GEN LAPLANE ISSUED CALL FORCORPS COMMANDERS TO COME TO BUENOS AIRES FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS MILITARY SITUATION. MEETING WAS TO HAVE COMMENCED AT 7 PM LOCAL TIME. AS THIS CABLE BEING DRAFTED, IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER MEETING HAS TAKEN PLACE. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, GEN DELIA LARROCA, THIRD CORPS COMMANDER, HAS INDICATED THAT HE WILL NOT COME TO BA UNTIL AFTER LAPLANE'S RESIGNATION HAS BECOME OFFICIAL.

4. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED REPORT THAT CABINET MEETING AT OLIVOS HAS ENDED. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, LAPLANE REMAINS AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND COL. CAMASCO HAS NOT RESIGNED AS INTERIOR MIN. WHETHER HE HAS RESIGNED HIS COMMISSION IS NOT CLEAR. JUSTICIALISTA PARTY (AT LEAST THAT FACTION SUPPORTING MRS. PERON) HAS CALLED FOR MEETING TO BEGIN AT 7:30 PM OF ALL OTHER PARTIES AT A DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES THEATER TO WORK OUT JOINT STATEMENT AGAINST A MILITARY COUP. CGT HAS ALSO CALLED AN EMERGENCY MEETING FOR THIS EVENING. FURTHER REPORT WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.
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